CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows in accordance with the Revised Format of Amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1.(original) A compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising:

a) a network;

b) a plurality of machines connected to said network wherein some machines are idle and some machines are busy; and

c) a process power broker connected to said network for locating available process power on idle machines and directing pending jobs from busy machines to said idle machines for processing.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the process power broker includes a job director for directing job output back to the busy machine for output.

3. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the process power broker includes a job director for directing job output to the first available machine for output.

4. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the machines are MFPs.

5. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the machines are printers.

6. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises an intranet.

7. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

8.(currently amended) ~~In a~~ A network of a plurality of MFPs wherein some MFPs are busy and some MFPs are idle, the network including a compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising a process power broker that identifies idle MFPs and directs pending jobs from busy MFPs to idle MFPs for processing and which further comprises a job director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output.

9. (original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the job director directs the job output to the first available idle MFP for output.

10. (original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the network is the Internet.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the MFPs are printers.

12. (original) A method for compute cycle brokering, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a network;

b) connecting a plurality of MFPs to said network wherein some MFPs are idle and some MFPs are busy; and

c) connecting a process power broker to said network for locating available process power on said idle MFPs and directing pending jobs from busy MFPs to said idle MFPs for processing.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output.

14. (original) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job director for directing job output to the first available MFP for output.

15. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein step b) comprises the step of connecting a pluarlity of printers to the network.

16. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) comprises providing an intranet network.

17. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) comprises providing an Internet network.

18. (original) In a network of MFPs, a computer program product for compute cycle brokering, the computer program product comprising:

a) instructions for identifying MFPs on the network that are idle and MFPs on the network that are busy; and

b) instructions for a process power broker for locating available process power on idle MFPs and directing pending jobs from busy MFPs to idle MFPs for processing.

19. (original) The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for a job director for directing a job output back to the busy MFP for output.

20. (original) The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for a job director for directing a job output to the first available MFP for output.